



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

# Fact Sheet

## Waste Tire Management for Consumers

When you purchase a replacement tire for your motor vehicle, the tire you replace becomes a waste tire subject to regulation by Kentucky's waste tire program. It's your responsibility to ensure this waste tire enters a permitted management system. State law requires a new tire buyer to pay \$1 for each new tire purchased. This money will be used to oversee the management of waste tires, including cleaning up abandoned waste tire piles.

Most of the time, the tire you are replacing is either worn out or marginally fit for its originally intended purpose. The most convenient and prudent thing you can do is ask your tire retailer to manage and dispose of your waste tires properly. For a nominal fee, your retailer can manage your waste tire in an environmentally responsible fashion.

### If you keep your waste tire

You can keep your waste tire, but if you do, you assume the responsibility for ensuring it is managed and/or disposed properly. You may reuse the tire for its original intended purpose or for an agricultural purpose. However, if you elect to dispose of your tire with someone other than your retailer, your legal options are as follows:

- You may take your waste tire to a permitted landfill **that will agree to accept it**. Residential pickup will not accept tires, and not all landfills will. Many landfills that accept waste tires require the tire be processed (quartered or shredded) to prevent the entrapment of water **before** it is accepted and charge a disposal fee for this service.
- You may take your waste tire to an incinerator or other facility for use as a fuel. The facility must be registered with the waste tire program and meet local and state requirements. These facilities also typically charge a disposal fee for accepting waste tires.
- You may deliver your waste tire to any transporter, processor or end-use market that is registered in accordance with the waste tire program. You can expect to pay a fee for disposal of your tire here as well.

### Hazards

Unmanaged waste tires represent an environmental and health risk to the commonwealth through fire hazard and as a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. It has been demonstrated that mosquitoes breed 5,000 times faster in the water that collects in tires than in water accumulations that occur naturally in forests. This is of increasing concern because the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), which carries Dengue fever and La Crosse encephalitis, has been identified in 103 counties and is suspected to exist in every county in the state.

Please be responsible in the management of your waste tires.

If you have comments, suggestions or questions about waste tires, please contact us.

Division of Waste Management  
200 Fair Oaks  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-6716  
Fax: (502) 564-4049



Kentucky Division of Waste Management